

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 L-03 H-01 SEC-01 EB-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8156

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 13823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BBAK, NI, US

SUBJECT: GARBA, LOCKHEED PAYOLA AND DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REF: STATE 299539

1. AT AMBASSADOR EASUM'S DINNER FOR SENATOR CLARK DEC. 19, DCM MENTIONED PRIVATELY TO AMBASSADOR SANU JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER COMMISSIONER GARBA'S DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION RE LOCKHEED BRIBERY CASE AND DEPARTMENT'S INTENT DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH NIGERIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

2. SANU SAID HE WAS AWARE OF PROBLEM AND HAD ALREADY RAISED IT WITH GARBA, POINTING OUT HIS STATEMENTS WERE NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF APRIL 20 AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON LOCKHEED CASE. SANU SAID DECISION TO MAKE STATEMENT WAS A POLITICAL ONE, DESIGNED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT AS PAPPADOPOULOS IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONING THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER THAT CAN BE DONE IN THE MATTER AND THE CASE IS CLOSED AS FAR AS THE FMG IS CONCERNED. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT REALIZED NO FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AFTER GARBA'S REVELATION OF INFO ON LOCKHEED CASE, BUT THAT DOES NOT MATTER AS FMG IS NOT SEEKING ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

3. COMMENT: FMG HAS OBVIOUSLY CONCLUDED LOCKHEED CASE IS TOO HOT TO PURSUE, LIKELY BECAUSE OF POSITION, TRIBAL AFFILIATION AND PERSONAL CONNECTIONS OF THOSE INVOLVED AND VERY POSSIBLY ALSO BECAUSE OF THE SONG SUCH PERSONS COULD SING
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ABOUT OTHER IN THE GOVERNMENT IF THEY WERE PROSECUTED.

4. WE RECOMMEND THAT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TAKE LOW-KEY, MATTER-OF-FACT APPROACH IN DISCUSSING GARBA'S DISCLOSURES WITH NIGERIAN EMBASSY. BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE AVOID ACCUSATIONS OR RECRIMINATIONS AND SIMPLY MAKE FACTUAL STATEMENT OF SITUATION FOR THE RECORD. WE FURTHER BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO MAKE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OR STATEMENT CONCERNING PROPOSED JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION WITH NIGERIAN EMBASSY DECEMBER 13.
EASUM

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